

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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For more information, contact

Eunice.Padley@dnr.state.wi.us

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NORTHERN COMANDRA

(*Geocaulon lividum*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered

Description:

Northern comandra has branched stems up to a foot tall with smallish, green flowers growing in groups of 3 from stem/leaf axils. Its brilliant scarlet fruits attract birds which readily eat



them and scatter the seeds. Northern comandra grows in large colonies.

Habitat: This rare wildflower grows on sandy beach ridges and old dunes, partly shaded by conifer woods. In Wisconsin, northern comandra has been found only in Door County. In other states, northern comandra is also found



in moist woods, cedar-spruce swamps and heath bogs. It is a harmless parasite on roots of pine trees.

Forestry Considerations: Forests where northern comandra occurs may be thinned selectively. This might, in fact, encourage the wildflower, which prefers partial shade. Such thinning should be done in midwinter when the ground is frozen solidly and the plant is dormant.

